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FUND AIDS FIJIANS, NAVAJO

NEW YORK -- The Episcopal Church has joined in a worldwide effort to provide relief for 12,000 Fijians affected by an early April cyclone.

Nearly three feet of water fell in two days on the main island of the Fiji chain, wiping out villages, crops and livestock, killing 17 people and leaving thousands homeless. Roads were destroyed, and the relief centers must be supplied by sea or air.

Governments of the Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the United Kingdom joined with Red Cross societies, the Australia Council of Churches and Church World Service in providing aid. The Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief sent \$2,000 directly to the Rt. Rev. Jabez Bryce, Anglican Bishop of Polynesia, for the relief work.

The Fund was also called on to provide emergency aid in the United States when soaring utility rates threatened both the income and ministry of the Good Shepherd Mission in Fort Defiance, Ariz., part of the Navajoland Episcopal Church.

Two grants, of \$10,000 and \$1,802, were sent to the Rt. Rev. Frederick W. Putnam to pay back utility bills. The Fund's director, the Rev. Samir J. Habiby, had to intervene to assure local utility authorities that the money would be available before they would restore power to the rental properties that the mission relies on for much of its income. The second, smaller amount was to maintain service for the mission itself. Bishop Putnam assured the Fund that there was money to keep up the utility payments once the backlog was cleared.

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